14:International Bank S-5 (1954)1955 MD1 Syria MD1

available as required. More women are to be found in modern industry than formerly, especially in the hosiery and other textile factories.

The Syrian workman is on the whole better educated and more adaptable than his counterpart in most of the Middle Eastern countries. The availability of a large force of handicraft workers skilled in the fashioning of metals, wood, stone, textiles and other materials was of great value when the rapid expansion of industry began. As it proceeded, the government and the industrial leaders became increasingly conscious of the need for systematic vocational education and training in schools and factories; this has made considerable progress in recent years.

In Annex I an appraisal is made of the existing vocational (other than agricultural) schools in Syria; our recommendations regarding their extension and improvement are designed better to fit them to the requirements of industry as well as those of commerce and banking.

The private business world, as well as the government, has made its contribution. Most Syrian employers now recognize that successful plant operation demands an adequate supply and a small turnover of skilled labor. Some of the larger factories have instituted training schemes, some providing up to three months specialized training during which the apprentice is paid the full minimum wage. Most of the other factories and workshops have systems under which learners are gradually promoted from the simple to the more skilled operations.

There are nearly 200 industrial unions combined in federations in Syria, with a total of about 25,000 members. The federations and also a large proportion of the trade unions have mutual funds, derived in part from normal subscriptions of members, and partly from government subsidies. They are used for grants to members for medical expenses, hospitalization, extension of the legal periods of sick pay, grants to aged workers, unemployment pay and the like.

The Directorate of Labor and Social Services in the Ministry of National Economy is responsible for ensuring enforcement of the provisions of Syria's rather liberal Labor Code, supervising the trade unions, establishing and operating public employment offices and encouraging the foundation of private ones.

Wages are comparatively low. Minimum wages are fixed by local Minimum Wage Boards. A fairly representative sample of daily wages seems to be: boys and women, £S 1; unskilled men, £S 2-5; skilled men,